

First named inventor: Kwasny
Serial no. 10/644,423
Filed 8/20/2003
Attorney docket no. 200207936-1

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REMARKS

Claims 1-18

Claims 1-2, 8-10, and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima (2004/0037176) in view of Wen (6,019,151). Claims 3-7 and 11-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen, and further in view of Onodera (2001/0040867). Claims 15-16 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen, and further in view of Pettigrew (2004/0141385). Claim 17 has been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, and which would be patentable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is an independent claim, from which claims 2-18 ultimately depend. Claim 17 in particular directly depends from claim 1.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17, and has cancelled claim 17. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable, as are claims 2-16 and 18 that ultimately depend from claim 1.

Claims 19-22

Claims 19-21 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen, and further in view of Pettigrew. Claim 22 has been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, and which would be patentable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 19 is an independent claim, from which claims 20-22 ultimately depend. Claim 22 in particular directly depends from claim 19.

Applicant has amended claim 19 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22, and has cancelled claim 22. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 19 is patentable, as are claims 20-21 that ultimately depend from claim 19.

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Claims 23-26

Claims 23-26 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen. Claim 23 is an independent claim, from which claims 24-26 ultimately depend. Applicant has amended claim 23 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 17 and 22, which have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 23 is patentable, as are claims 24-26 that ultimately depend from claim 23.

Claim 27

Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen. Claim 27 is an independent claim. Applicant has amended claim 27 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 17 and 22. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 27 is patentable.

Claims 28-30

Claims 28-29 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen. Claim 30 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen, and further in view of Pettigrew. Claim 28 is an independent claim, from which claims 29-30 ultimately depend. Applicant has amended claim 28 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 17 and 22. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 28 is patentable, as are claims 29-30 that ultimately depend from claim 28.

Claims 31-33

Claims 31-32 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen. Claim 33 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen, and further in view of Pettigrew. Claim 31 is an independent claim, from which claims 32-33 ultimately depend. Applicant has amended claim 31

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to incorporate the subject matter of claims 17 and 22. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 31 is patentable, as are claims 32-33 that ultimately depend from claim 31.

Claim 34

Claim 34 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishima in view of Wen. Claim 34 is an independent claim. Applicant has amended claim 34 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 17 and 22. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 34 is patentable.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Mike Dryja, Applicants' Attorney, at 425-427-5094, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date

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